

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 17 and 24; AMEND claims 18-22, 25-29 and 31 and ADD new claim 32 in accordance with the following:

1-17 (CANCELLED)

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim-~~47~~ 22, wherein the control flow description is a control flow graph.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim-~~47~~ 22, wherein the data flow description is a data flow graph.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim-~~47~~ 22, wherein each of the fault descriptions associated with the reference elements is a ~~stored~~ fault tree, ~~wherein the element fault description is ascertained as an element fault tree, and~~ wherein the overall fault description is ascertained as ~~an~~ the overall fault tree based on fault trees associated with the corresponding reference element for each selected program element.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim-~~47~~ 22, further comprising performing fault analysis in the section of the computer program using the overall fault description.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The A method as claimed in claim 17 for using a~~ computer to ascertain an overall fault description for at least one section of a computer program, comprising:

storing fault descriptions associated with reference elements to describe possible faults in the reference elements, respectively;

storing a section of the computer program;

ascertaining a control flow description for the section of the computer program, to describe a flow of control information in the section of the computer program;

ascertaining a data flow description for the section of the computer program, to describe a flow of data in the section of the computer program;

combining the control and data flow descriptions into a joint flow description for the section of the computer program;

selecting program elements from the section of the computer program;

matching each selected program element with a corresponding reference element to obtain a fault description associated with the corresponding reference element and thereby describe possible faults in the selected program element;

ascertaining ~~wherein~~ the overall fault description is ascertained as an overall fault tree using the fault descriptions of the program elements from the computer program, with a structure of the overall fault description taking into account a structure of the joint flow description; and ~~wherein said method further comprises~~

altering the overall fault tree in terms of prescribable boundary conditions.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said altering comprises adding a complementary fault tree.

24. (CANCELLED)

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim-24 29, wherein said processor ascertains the control flow description as a control flow graph.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system as claimed in claim-24 29, wherein said processor ascertains the data flow description as a data flow graph.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system as claimed in claim-24 29, wherein said storage unit stores each fault description as a fault tree, and wherein said processor ascertains each element fault description as an element fault tree and the overall fault description as an overall fault tree.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system as claimed in claim-24 29, wherein said processor further performs fault analysis in the at least one section of the computer program using the overall fault description.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The A system as claimed in claim-24~~ for ascertaining an overall fault description for at least one section of a computer program, comprising:

a storage unit to store the at least one section of the computer program and fault descriptions for reference elements, each fault description describing possible faults in one of the reference elements; and

a processor, coupled to said storage unit,

to ascertain control and data flow descriptions for the at least one section of the computer program, the control flow description describing a flow of control information in the at least one section of the computer program and the data flow description describing a flow of data in the at least one section of the computer program,

to combine the control and data flow descriptions into a joint flow description for the at least one section of the computer program,

to select program elements from the at least one section of the computer program,

to match each selected program element with a corresponding reference element and obtain a fault description associated with the corresponding reference element and thereby describe possible faults in the selected program element;; and

to ascertain wherein said processor ascertains the overall fault description as an overall fault tree using the fault descriptions of the program elements from the computer program, with a structure of the overall fault description taking into account a structure of the joint flow description; and alters

to alter the overall fault tree in terms of prescribable boundary conditions.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as claimed in claim 29, wherein said processor alters the overall fault tree by adding a complementary fault tree.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-readable storage medium storing at least one program to control a computer to perform a method for ascertaining an overall fault description for at least one section of a computer program, said method comprising:

storing a section of the computer program;

ascertaining a control flow description for the section of the computer program, to describe a flow of control information in the section of the computer program;

ascertaining a data flow description for the section of the computer program, to describe a flow of data in the section of the computer program;

combining the control and data flow descriptions into a joint flow description for the section of the computer program;

selecting program elements from the section of the computer program;

storing a fault description for each reference element to describe possible faults in the reference element;

~~ascertaining an element fault description for matching each selected program element, based on the fault description associated with a corresponding reference element[[,]] to obtain a~~
fault description associated with the corresponding reference element and thereby describe possible faults in the selected program element; and

ascertaining the overall fault description as an overall fault tree using the ~~element-fault descriptions of the program elements from the computer program~~, with a structure of the overall fault description taking into account a structure of the joint flow description; and

altering the overall fault tree in terms of prescribable boundary conditions.

32. (NEW) A computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 31, wherein said processor alters the overall fault tree by adding a complementary fault tree.